

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 3938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: BELGIAN VIEWS ON ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS ARISING  
OUT OF OPTION III

REF: USNATO 3925

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) MADE AN EXTENDED  
PRESENTATION AT JULY 24 SPC IN FAVOR OF SEEKING NO LIMITATIONS ON  
ARMAMENTS, AND THEN ALLOWING THE SOVIETS TO DRIVE US TO ROUGHLY THE  
US PROPOSED POSITION. HE SUBSEQUENTLY SUPPLIED THE INTERNATIONAL  
STAFF WITH A REDRAFT OF PARAS 4-9 OF THE US DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR THE  
AHG, THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT

4. IN THEIR INITIAL PRESENTATIONS, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS  
SHOULD AVOID DISCUSSING THE ISSUES OF WHAT ARMAMENTS SHOULD BE  
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LIMITED AND THE NATURE OF SUCH LIMITATION. AS A RULE, THE  
ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD MAINTAIN THE POSITION THAT THE  
LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN THE WESTERN PROPOSALS REGARDING  
GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER SUFFICE TO ENSURE IN PRACTICE

ADQUATE CONSTRAINTS ON QUANTITATIVE INCREASES OF EQUIPMENT.

5. IF THE EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES ARGUE THAT THE REDUCTION OF US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IS OF NO VALUE UNLESS THEIR SUBSEQUENT REINTRODUCTION INTO THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS IS RULED OUT, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD READILY AGREE AS TO A MATTER OF EVIDENCE, WHILE STATING THAT THIS DOES NOT HOWEVER NEED TO BE ENSURED BY MEANS OF EXPLICIT CEILINGS ON THE RESIDUAL LEVELS SINCE THIS PARTICULAR REDUCTION REPRESENTS A SPECIFIC AND UNIQUE COMPLEMENT TO THE MAIN, GENERALLY APPLIED REDUCTION MEASURE LEADING TO APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS.

6. THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD MAINTAIN, AS APPROPRIATE, THE POSITION THAT AN EXPLICIT CEILING SHOULD BE PUT ON THE RESIDUAL LEVEL OF SOVIET MAIN BATTLE TANKS IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF APPROXIMATELY 1700 MBT COMPRISED IN THE SOVIET TANK ARMY WITHDRAWN IN PHASE I IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A GENERALLY APPLIED MEASURE AIMING AT ESTABLISHING APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS.

7. THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS WILL REFRAIN FROM FURTHER MOVES IN THOSE MATTERS PENDING POSSIBLE NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE COUNCIL. THEY WILL AVOID AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BEING DRAWN INTO A DEBATE ON RECIPROCITY REGARDING SAID MATTERS.

8. IF THE EAST ASKS FOR LIMITS ON ALLIED NON-US NUCLEAR OR AIR ELEMENTS, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD ANSWER, AS APPROPRIATE, THAT LIMITS ON ALLIED NON-US NUCLEAR OR AIR ELEMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST IN VIEW OF THE DISPARITIES WHICH EXIST IN FAVOUR OF THE EAST; THE PREVIOUSLY OFFERED ALLIED NO-INCREASE COMMITMENTS ON GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER OFFER ADEQUATE ASSURANCE THAT THE PROPOSED PHASE I AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE CIRCUMVENTED AS REGARDS EQUIPMENTS.  
END TEXT

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3. IN A CONVERSATION JULY 25, WILLOT STATED THAT WHILE THIS REFLECTED HIS INSTRUCTIONS, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT BELGIUM WOULD NOT INSIST ON SO EXTREME A POSITION. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE COULD ACCEPT THE US POSITION WITH TWO CHANGES WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS SIGNIFICANT: (A) THAT THE CONSTRAINTS ON US NUCLEAR SYSTEMS BE DESCRIBED NOT AS "ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS", BUT AS A "COMMITMENT NOT TO RETURN ITEMS WHICH HAD BEEN REDUCED" WITH A CAREFULLY AGREED DEFINITION OF WHAT HAD BEEN REDUCED; (B) THAT THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS NOT AGREE TO CONSIDER LIMITATIONS ON US TANKS UNLESS THE EAST REQUESTED SUCH A LIMITATION IN A CONTEXT WHICH MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE EAST WOULD NOT GO ON TO ASK FOR LIMITATIONS ON NON-US TANKS. WILLOT SAID THAT BELGIAN MOVEMENT ALONG THESE LINES WOULD NOT COME IMMEDIATELY, BUT WOULD

COME WHEN IT COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS JOINING OR MOVING  
TOWARDS A CONSENSUS.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT IN FACT BELGIUM WILL JOIN WHATEVER  
CONSENSUS EMERGES. HOWEVER, THE PROCESS WOULD BE SMOOTHED BY  
WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THE BELGIAN TEXT ABOVE, AND BY OUR  
ABILITY TO ASSURE THE BELGIANS THAT THE CHANGES NOTED IN PARA 3  
ABOVE HAD RECEIVED CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE USG.

5. ACTION REQUESTED PER PARA 4BRUCE

SECRET

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